

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐  
no ☐

Property Name: Baker Cemetery - Grace United Methodist Church  
Cemetery Inventory Number: HA-1554  
South side of Churchville, Rd., West of I-95  
Address: interchange, near Aberdeen. City: Aberdeen Zip Code: 21001  
County: Harford County USGS Topographic Map: Aberdeen, Maryland, 1985  
Grace United Methodist Church - 110 W. Bel Air Ave.,  
Owner: Aberdeen, Md 21001 Is the property being evaluated a district? NO  
Tax Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project: Adams Property Agency: Federal Communications Commission  
Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ yes ☐ no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ no

*If the property is within a district*

District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_

NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)*

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☐ yes ☒ no

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey dated July 1980

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The property was most recently observed and photographed on January 17, 2003. Its condition was unchanged since the preparation of the Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey form in the library of the Maryland Historical Trust.

The property is described in the Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form For State Historic Sites Survey prepared by Natalie Shivers, Harford County Historical District Commission, approximately July, 1980. Following is a brief summary of that property description, as modified by site observations made January 17, 2003.

From the description, the property is a 5-1/2 acre cemetery that began as a Baker family burial place in 1888 and expanded to include friends of the family and later disinterred bodies from the cemetery of the Aberdeen M. E. Church on Route 40. At the center of the cemetery are the four prepossessing obelisks belonging to George W. Baker and his three sons. In addition, the property was originally described as

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended <input type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____	
_____	
_____	
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services <i>[Signature]</i>	Date <u>4/30/03</u>
Reviewer, NR Program <i>[Signature]</i>	Date <u>4/29/03</u>

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 1

HA-1554

being in excellent condition. It was observed that this property appears unchanged from the description in the attached form.

Cemeteries are not normally considered to be eligible for historic registration, unless they are associated with major historic events or major historic personages, and so this cemetery is not considered to be eligible for registration under the terms of Criteria A or B. Further, nothing about the design or construction of the cemetery qualifies it for registration under the applicable terms of Criterion C. Finally, no known archaeological significance is associated with the property, making it ineligible for registration under Criterion D.

Prepared by: William C. Riggs, RA  
Historic Architect

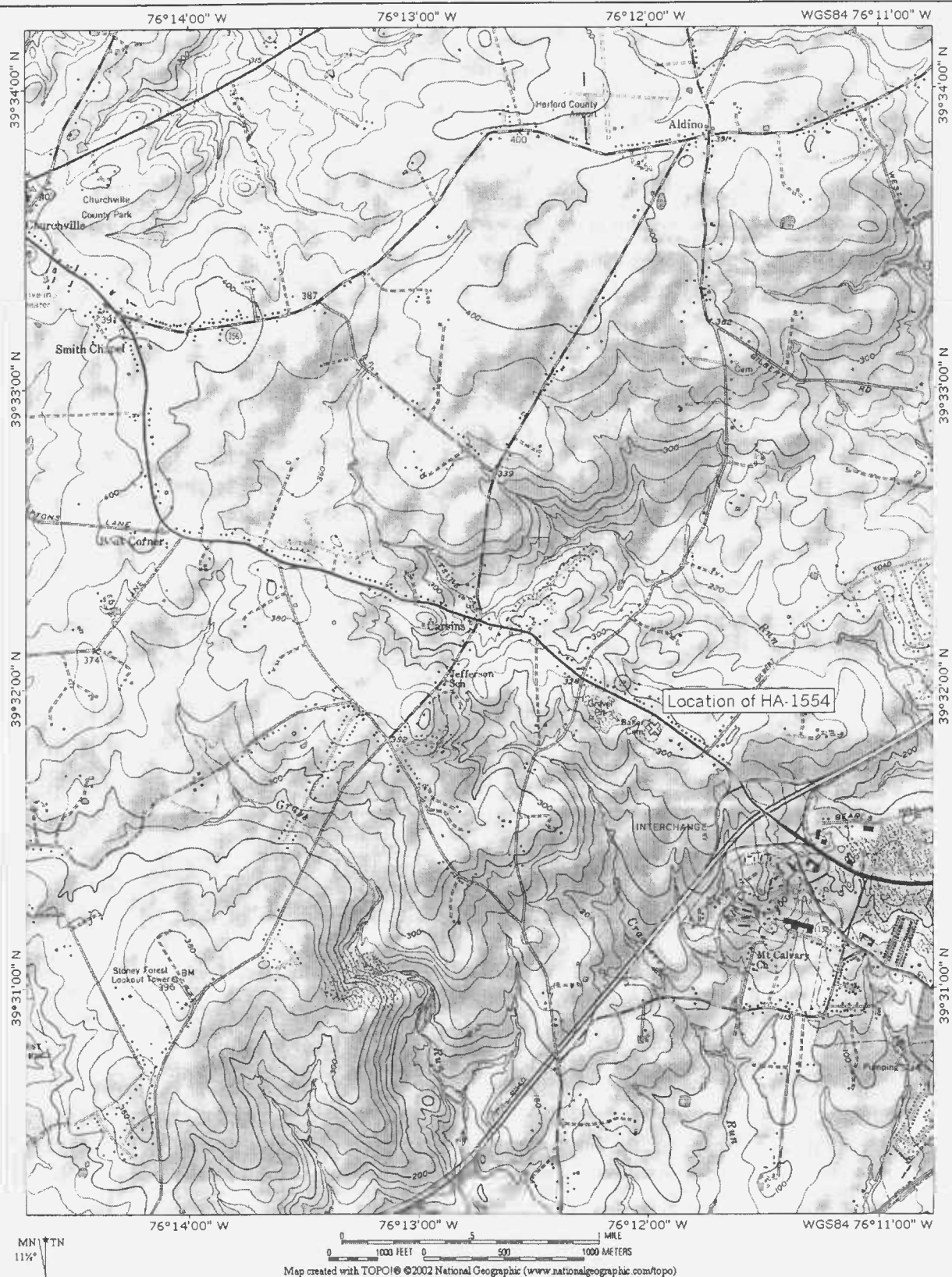
Date Prepared: 01.28.03

HA-1554

## Photo Negative List - Adams Raw Land 09.75132.0272

Ordered by Property Number

Roll 1		Roll 2		Roll 3				No Photos- (Bldg. demolished, or not in survey area)
Neg	Property	Neg	Property	Neg	Property	Summary		
1-33	HA-1294	2-17	HA-0987	3-4	HA-1296	HA-0987	HA-988	
1-34	HA-1294	2-18	HA-0987	3-5	HA-1296	HA-0989	HA-1295	
1-35	HA-1294	2-19	HA-0987	3-6	HA-1296	HA-0991	HA-1304	
1-36	HA-1294	2-2	HA-0989	3-7	HA-1297	HA-0998	HA-1313	
1-1	HA-1533	2-3	HA-0989	3-8	HA-1297	HA-0999		
1-2	HA-1533	2-4	HA-0989	3-9	HA-1297	HA-1293		
1-3	HA-1533	2-11	HA-0991	3-10	HA-1297	HA-1294		
1-4	HA-1533	2-12	HA-0991	3-1	HA-1554	HA-1296		
1-5	HA-1533	2-13	HA-0991	3-2	HA-1554	HA-1297		
1-6	HA-1534	2-14	HA-0991	3-3	HA-1554	HA-1533		
1-7	HA-1534	2-15	HA-0991			HA-1534		
1-8	HA-1534	2-16	HA-0991			HA-1535		
1-9	HA-1534	2-33	HA-0998			HA-1536		
1-10	HA-1534	2-34	HA-0998			HA-1553		
1-11	HA-1534	2-35	HA-0998			HA-1554		
1-12	HA-1534	2-36	HA-0998			HA-1618		
1-13	HA-1534	2-25	HA-0999			HA-1875		
1-14	HA-1534	2-26	HA-0999					
1-23	HA-1535	2-27	HA-0999					
1-24	HA-1535	2-28	HA-0999					
1-25	HA-1535	2-29	HA-0999					
1-26	HA-1535	2-30	HA-0999					
1-27	HA-1535	2-20	HA-1293					
1-28	HA-1535	2-21	HA-1293					
1-29	HA-1535	2-22	HA-1293					
1-15	HA-1553	2-23	HA-1293					
1-16	HA-1553	2-24	HA-1293					
1-17	HA-1553	2-1	HA-1536					
1-18	HA-1553	2-5	HA-1536					
1-19	HA-1553	2-6	HA-1536					
1-20	HA-1553	2-7	HA-1536					
1-21	HA-1553	2-8	HA-1536					
1-22	HA-1553	2-9	HA-1536					
1-30	HA-1618	2-10	HA-1536					
1-31	HA-1618	2-31	HA-1875					
1-32	HA-1618	2-32	HA-1875					



**SITE VICINITY MAP**  
Aberdeen, MD Quadrangle  
**SCALE: As Shown**



**Property Condition Assessment**  
**HA-1554\_ Baker Cemetery-Grace UM**  
**Church**  
**Aberdeen, MD 21001**



HA-1554

BAKER / GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CEMETERY

SOUTH SIDE CHURCHVILLE RD, WEST OF I-95

ABERDEEN, HARBOR CO,

MD 21001

PHOTO BY: JAMISON STANTIK 01.17.03

NEG @ MD SHD

VIEW FROM CHURCHVILLE RD, 01.15.03

1/2

BAKER CEMETERY      HA-1554  
GRACE UMC  
ABERDEEN, MD 21001  
01.03

Photo Gallery 01.19.03



HA-1554

BAKER/GRAVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CEMETERY

SOUTH SIDE CHURCHVILLE RD.

ABERDEEN, HARTFORD CO.,

MD 21001

PHOTO BY JAMISON STOVAK 01.17.03

NEG MD 5400

VIEW TOWARD CHURCHVILLE RD.

2/2

BAKER CEMETERY  
GRAVE UMC  
ABERDEEN, MD 21001  
01.03

HA-1554

Photo Gallery 01.29.03



## SUMMARY

HA-1554  
Baker Cemetary  
Churchville Road  
Aberdeen, MD 21001

This 5-1/2-acre cemetary began as a Baker family burial place in 1888 and expanded to include friends of the family and later disinterred bodies from the cemetary of the Aberdeen M.E. Church on Route 40. It is now owned by the Grace United Methodist Church in Aberdeen.

At the center of the cemetary are the 4 prepossessing okelisks belonging to George W. Baker, who founded the canning industry in Harford County and gave the land for this cemetary (his house HA-1296 is adjacent) and 3 of his sons, William B., James\_B., and Charles W., who continued and expanded their father's enterprise. William B. Baker was also notable as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates and the 54th Congress.

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI # 1315545608

HA-1554

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Baker Cemetary

AND/OR COMMON

Grace United Methodist Church Cemetary

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South side of Churchville Rd., West of I-95 interchange, near Aberdeen

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

\_\_\_ DISTRICT

\_\_\_ BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_ STRUCTURE

☒ SITE

\_\_\_ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

\_\_\_ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

\_\_\_ BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

\_\_\_ IN PROCESS

\_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

\_\_\_ UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS

#### ACCESSIBLE

\_\_\_ YES RESTRICTED

☒ YES UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_ NO

#### PRESENT USE

\_\_\_ AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_ MUSEUM

\_\_\_ COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_ PARK

\_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT

☒ RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_ GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_ MILITARY

\_\_\_ OTHER

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Grace United Methodist Church

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

110 W. Bel Air Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Aberdeen,

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD 21001

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air,

STATE

MD 21014

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

58-159

### CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☒ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Baker Cemetary

This 5 -1/2-acre cemetary is located on the South side of Churchville Road (Md. Rt. 22), West of the I-95 interchange. Ranging over the brow of a hill, the cemetary contains several hundred stones in a compact and symmetrical arrangement. Most stones are machine-carved marble or granite dating from between 1888 and the present. (The monument for Elizabeth Baker, who died in 1853, was probably erected later.)

There are a number of okelisks, those belonging to George W. Baker and his sons, William B., James B., and Charles W. Baker, are the largest and most prepossessing grouped together at the center of the cemetary, their plots outlined by concrete curbs. The okelisk marking the grave of George W. Baker who founded the cemetary, <sup>has</sup> a chamfered edges and hipped cap and is set on a square base with a frieze decorated with corn cobs (George W. Baker pioneered the corn canning industry in Harford County). The other Baker okelisks are variations of that form, and there are smaller and plainer stones at their bases for other members of the family.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

## Baker Cemetary

The Baker Cemetary was first a family burial place for the Bakers, begun by George W. Baker on his home farm in 1888. It was then opened up to friends of the family and the Baker Cemetary Company was incorporated in 1889. Since then the Cemetary has been expanded to include graves disinterred from the Aberdeen M.E. Church on Route 40 and since 1971 has been managed under the auspices of the Grace United Methodist Church in Aberdeen.

The Cemetary property originally comprised 1 acre of the 14-acre parcel of "Mitchell's Lot" purchased by George W. Baker from Nicholas Baker in 1855<sup>1</sup> and 3 roods, 22 perches, purchased for \$63.43 from Edward and Hattie Carsins in 1887.<sup>2</sup> That same year George W. and Elizabeth Baker conveyed the 2 adjacent lots to their sons: William B. Baker, James B. Baker, Charles W. Baker and George A. Baker "to maintain and permit...to be used for the purpose of a cemetary or a place of burial, by all such persons as they may desire..."<sup>3</sup> And in 1889, the cemetary was sold to the Baker Cemetary Company of Harford County.<sup>4</sup> According to a descendent of George W. Baker, the Bakers had originally endowed the cemetary for \$6,000. Capital stock in the company, incorporated April 13, 1889, was \$600; 60 shares were issued at \$10 each. The first directors of the company were William B., James B., John H., Charles W., and George A. Baker - sons of George W. Baker. In 1906 Milford M. Carr, Winfred L. Baker, G. Harold Baker, Hollis R. Baker and P. Tevis Baker were added to the Board.

In 1946, 3-1/2 additional acres were acquired by the Baker Cemetary Company<sup>5</sup> and bodies are still being buried there.

The Baker Cemetary is significant primarily due to its association with the Baker family, pioneer and premier cannors in Harford County from the 3rd quarter of the 19th century until the Depression. George W. Baker founded the canning industry in this area, and his sons set up a huge canning and brokerage business. Soon there were canneries at every crossroads in the County and many of the canning families are represented in this Cemetary, among them the Osborns, the Mitchells, the Jewens, the Wells, et al.

## Footnotes

1. ALJ 6/273  
2. ALJ 61/111

3. ALJ 61/171  
4. ALJ 65/37

5. 294/219

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land, will and equity records of Harford County  
 History of the Grace United Methodist Church, pub. 1975  
 Interview with George W. Baker, 7/15/80

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE		DATE
Natalie Shivers		
ORGANIZATION	Harford County	
STREET & NUMBER		TELEPHONE
45 S. Main Street		838 6000 ext. 207
CITY OR TOWN		STATE
Bel Air,		MD 21014

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

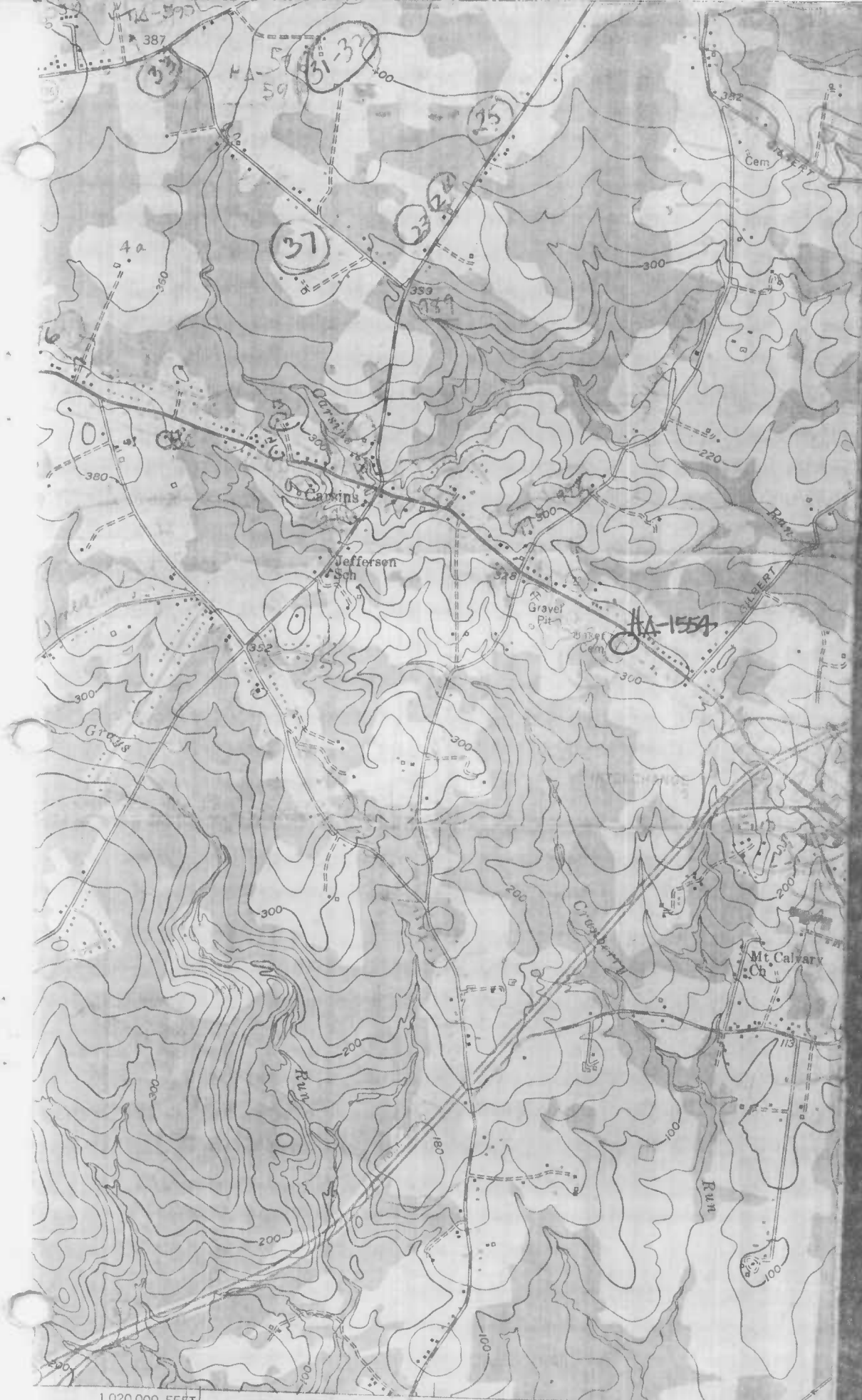
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

## TITLE SEARCH

HA-1554

Baker Cemetery  
Churchville Road  
Aberdeen, MD 21001

1. 294/219 Feb 25, 1946 Grantor: Virginia R. & W. Lester Davis  
Grantee: Baker Cemetery Co. of Harford County  
Acreage: 3.64 A.
2. ALJ 65/37 May 7, 1889 Grantor: Wm. B. and Mary C. Baker;  
James B. & Fannie R.C. Baker,  
Charles W. & Emma F. Baker,  
George A. & Mathew Baker  
Grantee: Baker Cemetery Co. of Harford County  
Acreage: 2 adjacent lots=2A 1R 2P
3. ALJ 61/171 Dec 17, 1887 Grantor: George W. & Elizabeth Baker  
Grantee: Wm. B. Baker, James B. Baker,  
Chas. W. Baker, George A. Baker  
Acreage: 2 adjacent lots  
1) 3R 22P  
2) 1A 1R 2P  
"to maintain and permit ...  
to be used for the purpose of  
a cemetery or a place of burial,  
by all such persons as they may  
desire to use the same"
- (a)4. ALJ 61/111 Dec 17, 1887 Grantor: Edward E. & Hattie V. Carsins  
John W. Carsins  
A. Preston Gilbert, trustee  
Grantee: George W. Baker  
Sum: \$63.43  
Acreage: 3R 22P
- (b)4. ALJ 6/273 Sept 19, 1855 Grantor: Nicholas Baker  
Grantee: George W. Baker  
Sum: \$1,200  
Acreage: part of "Mitchells Lot" = 14A.



1 020 000 FEET

08 MI. TO MD 7 12'30"

Survey

ABERDEEN USGS QUADRANGLE

(PERR 5762

SCALE





Baker Cemetary  
Aberdeen, MD 21001  
Natalie Shivers  
April, 1980  
Baker graves

HA-1554